

Participating in the Passport to Your National Park Program

The Passport to Your National Park program is a cooperative venture managed by the Eastern National Parks and Monuments Association. The Association provides educational products and services to National Parks and other public trust organizations. Operating retail outlets in National Parks and related organizations, the association offers books, maps, prints and other educational items. Since their founding in 1947, they have donated over \$65 million to the National Park Service. For more information visit their web site at **www.eparks.com**.

The passport is a 104-page booklet that gives a regional overview of the National Park System and provides blocks to be stamped at Park facilities. The stamp is a simple round rubber stamp with the locator name around the edge and a changeable date stamp in the center. Visitors can collect stamps and know where they were and when they traveled. Eastern National also offers collectable colored stamps to stick in the passport. National heritage areas may order the stamps from Eastern National for \$25.00 a piece. Information on the program and a stamp order form can be obtained by contacting Rachel at 215 283-6900 ex. 158

A number of national heritage areas already participate in the passport program including Cane River National Heritage Area, Delaware and Lehigh National Heritage Corridor, Erie Canalway National Corridor, Illinois and Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor, John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor, Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers Valley National Heritage Corridor, and Silos & Smokestacks. The stamps are available at heritage area visitor centers or at partner facilities. Silos & Smokestacks has the stamp on a chain outside at their office headquarters and visitors can stop by and stamp their booklets. Quinebaug and Shetucket has the stamp at three partner sites spread out across the area and at locations noted on their brochure. Automobile is planning to distribute the stamps to nine partner sites. Each stamp will be different and they have developed a special insert for the passport to encourage visitors to collect all nine stamps.

The passport program has an enthusiastic following and stamp collectors have list serves and a discussion page on the Eastern National web site. Participating in the program is just one more way to serve the public and to raise the profile of national heritage areas.